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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Brynjulv Aas

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EXAMINER

KEE, FANNIE C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/572,698	Applicant(s) AAS, BRYNJULV	
	Examiner Fannie Kee	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 August 2009 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the teeth and the notches in the teeth must be shown or the feature canceled from claim 5. No new matter should be entered.

2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure (as shown in the amendments filed on 8/18/09) is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. Paragraph starting at page 5, line 22 – replace the phrase "teeth 10 on the connection unit 7" with --teeth 9 on the connection unit 7--.

Correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: add the words --each of-- before the word "the locking rings" in line 7.

Correction is required.

5. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: delete the word "in" after the words "to slide" in line 2.

Correction is required.

6. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: replace the semi-colon after the word "steps" with a colon in line 3.

Correction is required.

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7. Claim 6 is also objected to because of the following informalities: the method steps define that the connection units are screwed together before the teeth and notches of the locking rings are brought into engagement with the connection units. It does not appear from the drawings that the connection are screwed together before the locking rings are brought into engagement with the connection units. How are the connection units screwed together?

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "Arrangement for locking threaded pipe connections comprising two connection units which are threaded and provide a female and a male threaded section, respectively, which are screwed together, the arrangement comprising a first and a second locking ring". It appears that Applicant is claiming an arrangement of two locking rings capable of connecting to two connection units. It does not appear that Applicant is claiming the two connections units as Applicant has not positively recited the connection units. As claim 1 recites "the arrangement comprising a first and a second locking ring", Applicant is not claiming the two

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connection units. As best understood, Examiner is interpreting that the invention of an arrangement for locking comprises a first and a second locking ring.

Claim 1 also recites :a first and a second locking ring, each with a first and a second side which lock the connection units angularly with respect to each other”. What does Applicant mean that the connection units are locked “angularly” with respect to each other? It is not clear what Applicant is trying to claim. How is there an angular lock? Also as the connection units are not positively recited as a part of the claimed invention, and as best understood, Examiner is interpreting that as long as the locking rings are capable of locking connection units together, then this claim limitation has been met.

Examiner will interpret all of the claim limitations of claim 1 as best understood by Examiner.

Claim 2 recites “the locking rings are arranged to slide in angularly and axially on shoulders on the connection units”. How are the locking rings sliding angularly and axially? What does Applicant mean by “angularly”? Angularly with respect to what and in what direction? It is not clear what Applicant is trying to claim. The locking rings appear to move only in an axial direction. As best understood, Examiner is interpreting that as long as the locking rings are capable of sliding in an axial direction, then this claim limitation has been met.

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Claim 2 also recites the limitation "on shoulders on the connection units". There is no antecedent basis for this claim as the connection units are elements which have not been positively recited.

Claim 4 recites the limitation " the connection units". There is no antecedent basis for this claim as the connection units are elements which have not been positively recited.

Claim 5 recites "the teeth and the notches in the teeth which engage ". What does Applicant mean by notches in the teeth? It is not clear where this is shown in the drawings or how there are notches in the teeth. Examiner will interpret this claim limitation as best understood.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "on a shoulder of the connection units". There is no antecedent basis for this claim as the connection units are elements which have not been positively recited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Myers et al U.S. Patent No. 4,655,482.

With regard to claim 1, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose arrangement for locking threaded pipe connections comprising two connection units which are threaded and provide a female and a male threaded section, respectively, which are screwed together, the arrangement comprising;

a first (42) and a second (44) locking ring, each with a first and a second side which lock the connection units angularly with respect to each other,

characterized in that the first and second side of the locking rings comprise teeth and intermediate notches, wherein the first and second ring engage each other with corresponding teeth (56, 62) and notches on their first sides and have a different number of notches and teeth formed on their second sides (74, 82, 84, 86), which two second sides, facing their respective connection units, are formed to engage a corresponding number of notches and teeth formed on a shoulder on the facing edge of the connection units after the rings are spread apart in an axial

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direction and, at the same time, the mutual engagement between the first and second ring is maintained.

With regard to claim 2, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose the locking rings (42, 44) being arranged to slide in angularly and axially on shoulders on the connection units.

With regard to claim 3, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose the locking rings (42, 44) being provided with teeth that have parallel flanks, and notches with slanted sides at the sides facing the connection units.

With regard to claim 4, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose the connection units being provided with teeth with slanted flanks, and notches with parallel sides.

With regard to claim 5, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose the teeth and the notches in the teeth which engage are formed to provide a sufficient clearance after engagement to absorb possible small deformations of the locking rings.

With regard to claim 6, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose a method for locking threaded pipe connection units utilizing the arrangement according to claim 1, characterized in the following steps;

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- arranging two locking rings (42, 44) which engage each other via teeth and notches (56, 62) on their first sides, on a shoulder of the connection units,
- screwing the connection units together,
- bringing the teeth (74, 82, 84, 86) and notches of the second sides of the locking rings into engagement with the notches and teeth of the connection units after screwing the connection units together by spreading the rings partially apart in an axial direction, and
- locking the locking rings with respect to each other in the axial direction by means of locking devices (88).

With regard to claim 7, and as best understood by Examiner, Myers et al disclose the locking rings (42, 44) being manually spread apart the axial direction, and are locked by means of locking bolts (88).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 8/18/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- b. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the locking arrangement of claim 1 utilizes a spreading device that locks the device with respect to rotation in either direction) are not recited in the rejected claim(s).

Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the

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specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

c. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the connection units of Myers fail to include shoulders, notches or teeth on the sides facing the locking rings) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
February 26, 2010